

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Today

Volleyball hosts Milbank Area  
C and JV matches at 6 p.m. followed by varsity  
match  
Oral Interp at Brookings

## Tuesday

Flu Clinic at Groton Area Elementary from 11 a.m.  
to 5:30 p.m.  
Parent-Teacher Conferences from 1:30 p.m. to 8:30  
p.m.  
Senior Scholarship info night at GHS at 6:45 p.m.

## Wednesday

MathCounts at Roncalli Middle School from 8:30  
a.m. to 11:35 a.m.

## Thursday

2nd Round football playoffs: Groton Area at S.F  
Christian at 7 p.m.

## Friday

No School - Teacher Inservice

## JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

[www.johnsonagencygroton.com](http://www.johnsonagencygroton.com)

102 N Main St. Office: 605/397-2424  
Groton, SD 57445 Home: 605/397-8565



**Open:** Recycling Trailer in Groton  
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Rail-  
road Ave.

**The cardboard/paper**

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

"Clear your  
mind of  
'can't'."

-Samuel Johnson



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All auto owners!  
**Save \$2-\$4 /tank**  
& grow your local economy  
by choosing low carbon  
**Super Premium E30's**  
94 octane, more power,  
same mileage, fewer  
carbon deposits, lower  
maintenance costs,  
slashed benzene & related  
genotoxic, carcinogenic  
tailpipe emissions;  
\*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for  
info, E30 prices\locations.

**\*Farmers Union's  
PSA: Courtesy Merle  
Anderson (Merle is 94  
year old founder of Ace  
and legendary ethanol  
supporter... "because it is  
the right thing to do")**

## Groton Area Help Wanted

The Groton Area School District is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time Assistant Business Manager. Job description and application materials can be found under the employment tab at [www.grotonarea.com](http://www.grotonarea.com). Questions should be directed to Joe Schwan, Superintendent at 605-397-2351.

## Help Wanted

We are Hiring Nurses – RN or LPN,  
Full or Part Time. Cooks/Dietary Aid  
Housekeeping.

## NEW WAGE PACKAGE!!!

Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Peterson at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



# GROTON

CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

605-397-2365

0913.1006

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## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings (5-2) defeated the Baltimore Ravens (3-4) 24-16 this past Sunday, October 22. The game wasn't as close as the final score would indicate, however, as the Ravens were able to put in a garbage-time touchdown as time expired in the fourth quarter. The Vikings won the game handedly, which is what they were expected to do against a team who was missing its top playmakers on offense. It was good to see the Vikings dominate though, since they have a propensity to play down to their level of competition.

Case Keenum got the start Sunday because Sam Bradford is still dealing with his injury and Teddy Bridgewater needs a couple weeks of practice before he's ready for game action. Keenum completed 20 of 31 passes (65%) for 188 yards, no touchdowns and one interception. He didn't have a great game, but it wasn't needed because the run game and defense were more than enough to carry the team. Speaking of the running game, Latavius Murray looked like he is finally over his ankle injury. He carried the ball 18 times for 113 yards (6.1 yards per carry) and a touchdown. Murray is still unable to run through tackles, but he showed great vision by finding the running lanes that were opened by the offensive line. The Vikings finished with 169 rushing yards in the game. The offense played a little subpar against the Ravens, but it was ok because the defense played lights out.

Super Bowl MVP quarterback Joe Flacco has not had a good season thus far, and things didn't get any easier against the Vikings defense. Flacco attempted 39 passes and finished with 186 yards, one touchdown and no interceptions, but 65 yards and the touchdown came at the end of the fourth quarter when the game was already decided. The Vikings defense sacked Flacco five times and caused him to fumble three times, while also adding 11 tackles for a loss, six quarterback hits, and two pass deflections. Everson Griffen was responsible for two of the five sacks, and he might be the player of the game for the Vikings, although Anthony Barr should also be considered, as he was flying all over the field and accounted for 11 tackles, one sack, two tackles for a loss, one pass breakup, and one quarterback hit.

Looking ahead, the Minnesota Vikings have a "home" game against the Cleveland Browns next Sunday – but the game will be played in London. The game will start at 8:30 a.m. Central Time on October 29 and will be shown on NFL Network. The Vikings have a bye week following the game, so they will look to go into the bye with a record of 6-2. Theoretically, this game should be an easy one for Minnesota, as the Browns are 0-7 this year after going 1-15 last season. The Browns can't seem to decide on a quarterback, going back and forth between 2016 third-round pick Cody Kessler and 2017 second-round pick DeShone Kizer. The biggest threat to the Vikings will be the Browns first-round pick this year, defensive end Myles Garrett, who now has four sacks in his first three games (he missed the first four games of the season because of an injury). The Vikings could be hurting along the offensive line against the Browns because of injuries, so it will be imperative for the team to move the ball using quick passes and the run game. ESPN gives the Vikings an 83.7% chance to win, so unless something bad happens, the Vikings should be in good shape going into their bye. Skol!

Have any questions or comments? Reach out to me on Facebook ([facebook.com/SkolJWright](https://www.facebook.com/SkolJWright)) or on Twitter (@SkolJWright)!



## 7th Grade Team Awards

**Front row from left. Groton, 1st place, Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, and Andrew Marzahn; Back row from left: Simmons, 2nd place, Carly Comstock, Anjali Kathikar, Keilani Mielke, and Masyn Schutter.** (Courtesy photo)

## Seventh MathCounts take first

The Groton Area Invitational MathCounts Competition was held on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 in the high school gym.

119 students from seven Aberdeen area schools (Britton-Hecla, Holgate, Northwestern, Roncalli, Simmons, Warner, and Groton) participated in the event, which was sponsored by 3M of Aberdeen. Groton students, Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, and Andrew Marzahn earned first place in the seventh grade team division. Ethan Clark also received recognition for placing third in the individual seventh grade portion of the competition.

MathCounts is a nationwide coaching and competition program for middle school students that promotes excellence in mathematics. The next junior high competition will be the Roncalli Invitational MathCounts Competition on Wednesday, October 25.

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## ROSLYN, SOUTH DAKOTA

### 4-PLEX FOR SALE

The following real estate is for sale:

Lots Seven (7), Eight (8) and Nine (9), Block Twenty-two (22), Original Plat, Roslyn, Day County, South Dakota;

A/k/a 716 1st Street, Roslyn, South Dakota; st Consisting of lots and 4-plex apartment house, currently unoccupied and has been for five (5) years. Property is to be sold "AS IS". Apartment units have electric baseboard heat and electric hot water heaters. Apartment units also include electric ranges, refrigerators, and washers/dryers.

No warranties are being offered on the appliances ("AS IS").

Interested parties should submit sealed bids to Law Office of Danny R. Smeins, P.C., 506 Main Street, Webster, SD 57274, or hand delivered to the same address prior to 5:00 p.m. on the 14th day of November, 2017. Bids will be opened after the bid deadline, and Seller will identify the bidders that will be invited to raise their bid on the 17 day of November, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at the Law Office of Danny R. Smeins, P.C. in Webster, South Dakota. Not all bidders will be invited to raise their bid.

Successful bidder will be required to execute a standard Purchase Agreement and make an earnest money deposit.

**SELLER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS.**

Direct all inquiries, questions or requests for real estate information to Danny R. Smeins, Attorney at Law, at (605) 345-4875 or (605) 448-5964 or Ray Lardy, Roslyn Homes, Inc., at (605) 228-1597 or Richard Galbraith at (605) 229-0180.

## 2 day Day Dog Obedience Training



### Seminar

**Friday October 27th 6-pm -9p.m.  
Saturday October 28th 9am -11 am**

Held at (A & S Hardware Hank and Rental)

Junction Hwy 12-25 in Webster, SD

**K-9 Classics Dog Obedience hosting**

**Friday: Basic: Sit, Stay, Come & Down.**

**Saturday: Behavioral Issues**

**Why does my dog do that?**

**Q&A**

**Great information, Great fun**

**\$100 per dog**

Pre register-A&S Hardware Hank and Rental

**345-3821 K-9 Classics 880-1779**

## Service Notice: Jennings Tobin

Jennings Tobin, 92 of Pierpont died on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at Sun Dial Manor in Bristol.

Services will be at 2:00 P.M. Thursday, October 26, 2017 at Langford Evangelical Lutheran Church in Langford, Rev. Chris Strohm will officiate. Burial will be at Hillside Cemetery near Langford.

Visitation will be at the church on Thursday from noon to 2 P.M.

## **Marshall County, South Dakota PRIVATE LAND SALE - 155 +/- ACRES**

Legal Description: The Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of Section Nine (9), Township One Hundred Twenty-six (126), Range Fifty-nine (59), West of the 5th P.M., except five acres of said land in the northeast corner of said land which is used for cemetery purposes, Marshall County, South Dakota.

155 acres with the total acres to be determined by survey or the acres used by Farm Service Agency in Marshall County, South Dakota.

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SELLERS: Estate of Nancy L. Wright  
Clark Wright & Elizabeth LaRocque Co- Personal Representatives

ATTORNEY FOR SELLERS: Rick A. Ribstein – Ribstein & Hogan Law Firm, 621 6th Street, Brookings, SD 57006. Phone: (605) 692-1818

REVISED SALE/AUCTION FORMAT: Preliminary written bids will be accepted by Rick A. Ribstein, Attorney for Sellers, until 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Friday, October 20, 2017. Prospective purchasers will be notified by mail that they are invited to a private auction to be held in Amherst, South Dakota, on Friday, November 3, 2017. Sellers reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

PRELIMINARY WRITTEN BID FORMAT: Preliminary written bids may be submitted in the form of a letter mailed or delivered to Seller's Attorney at the address printed above. Preliminary bid letters should include bidder's name and mailing address, the preliminary bid amount, and should be accompanied by a check for a down payment equal to 5% of the preliminary bid amount. Down payment checks should be payable to Ribstein & Hogan Trust Account.

TERMS: 5% down with preliminary written bid. A 10% additional nonrefundable earnest money payment required on the day of sale and balance at closing. Possession will be subject to existing tenant's rights under their current lease and their rights to harvest the 2017 crops, with Fall tillage privileges for a new buyer(s) to be permitted with approval of the current tenants. Cost of owner's policy of title insurance and closing fees split 50/50. Sellers will pay the 2016 taxes due in 2017, and all prior taxes. 2017 taxes will be prorated until the day of closing.

INQUIRIES: Informal packages available upon request from Seller's Attorney. Questions about the real estate or auction format should be directed to Seller's Attorney by mail, or by calling (605) 692-1818. Ask for Rick A. Ribstein, Attorney or Sheila Maffett, Legal Secretary.

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## Today in Weather History

October 23, 1995: A major fall storm hit Central and Northeast South Dakota and dropped from four inches to one foot of wet snow. The heavy wet snow combined with high winds gusting up to 50 mph snapped several thousand power poles and downed hundreds of miles of line in the counties of Buffalo, Hand, Spink, Roberts and Grant. In Day and Lyman Counties, a few poles were downed with some short lived power outages. Marshall County had no reports of damage or power outages. Several thousand people were left without power for several hours up to several days. Power was not restored to some people until the fourth of November. Portions of Interstate 90 and Interstate 29 were closed from the evening of the 23rd until the morning of the 24th leaving hundreds of motorists stranded. There were also numerous school delays and closings. Many trees and some crops were also damaged as a result of the weight of the snow and high winds. Some snowfall amounts included, 4 inches near Reliance, at Doland, and near Victor, 5 inches southeast of Stephan and at Sisseton, 6 inches south of Ree Heights and at Eden, eight inches at Waubay and Grenville, 9 inches at Clear Lake, 10 inches at Watertown, and 12 inches at Summit and Milbank. This storm was the third damaging storm to the rural electric cooperatives this year and has been called the worst natural disaster in the history of the rural electrics. The total damage estimated for the rural state electrics was \$9.5 million.

1091: The earliest known tornado in Britain, possibly the most severe on record, hit central London. The church at St. Mary le Bow was severely damaged. Four rafters, each 26 feet long were driven into the ground with such force that only four feet protruded above the surface. Other churches in the area were also demolished along with over 600 houses.

1761 - A hurricane struck southeastern New England. It was the most violent in thirty years. Thousands of trees blocked roads in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. (David Ludlum)

1843 - "Indian Summer" was routed by cold and snow that brought sleighing from the Poconos to Vermont. A foot of snow blanketed Haverhill NH and Newberry VT, and 18 to 24 inches were reported in some of the higher elevations. Snow stayed on the ground until the next spring. (22nd-23rd) (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987) (The Weather Channel)

1878: One of the most severe hurricanes to affect eastern Virginia in the latter half of the 19th century struck on October 23, 1878. This storm moved rapidly northward from the Bahamas on October 22nd and hit the North Carolina coast late that same day moving at a forward speed of 40 to 50 mph. The storm continued northward passing through east central Virginia, Maryland and eastern Pennsylvania. The barometric pressure fell to 28.78". The five minute sustained wind reached 84 mph at Cape Henry. During the heaviest part of the gale, the wind at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina registered 100 mph. The instrument itself has finally blown away and therefore no further record was made.

1920: Famed research meteorologist Theodore Fujita, was born on this date in Kitakyushu City, Japan. Fujita, known as "Mr. Tornado" after developing the international standard for measuring tornado severity, also discovered microbursts.

1987 - Thirteen cities in the southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. It marked the sixth record low of the month for Greer SC and Columbia SC, and the ninth of the month for Montgomery AL. Showers and thunderstorms deluged Corpus Christi TX with five inches of rain. Winnemucca NV reported their first measurable rain in ninety-two days, while Yakima WA reported a record 96 days in a row without measurable rainfall. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Denver, CO, reported their first freeze of the autumn, and Chicago, IL, reported their first snow. In Texas, afternoon highs of 93 degrees at Austin and San Antonio were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A storm moving out of the Gulf of Alaska brought rain and high winds to the Central Pacific Coast Region. High winds in Nevada gusted to 67 mph at Reno, and thunderstorms around Redding CA produced wind gusts to 66 mph. Locally heavy rains in the San Francisco area caused numerous mudslides, adding insult to injury for earthquake victims. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
								
Partly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy and Breezy	Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear then Mostly Cloudy and Breezy	Slight Chance Rain and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy and Blustery then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 55 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 53 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 40 °F	High: 46 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 40 °F



Gusts of **40 to 50 mph** out of the northwest this afternoon, with stronger gusts over western South Dakota

## Windy Today

### Impacts



Loose object blowing around



**Increased Fire Danger**  
west of the James River Valley

Travel may be difficult for high profile vehicles

### Timing

Strongest winds this afternoon

Winds diminishing around sunset, but remaining breezy



Weather Forecast Office  
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr @NWSAberdeen  
US National Weather Service Aberdeen

GRAPHIC CREATED:  
10/23/2017 5:01 AM

Published on: 10/23/2017 at 5:03AM

Windy conditions will develop this afternoon, with gusts out of the northwest of 40 to 50 mph. Stronger winds are expected over portions of western South Dakota. High Wind Warnings and Wind Advisories are in effect for much of the region. Very high to extreme grassland fire danger expected over western and central South Dakota this afternoon. Burning is not advised! Take extra precautions if outdoors as loose objects will blow around. Travel may be difficult for high profile vehicles. Winds will diminish around sunset, but remain breezy. Your specific forecast can be found at [www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)



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## TRUE POWER AND MERCY

"God has spoken once." Then it seems as if he thought for a moment and then corrected himself. No, he said, "Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God!" God spoke a second time directly to him. That is the value of waiting in silence before God. When we are patient, we allow God to do His work in our lives and give us His directions!

David was surrounded by false gods and idols. But there was a dramatic difference between his God and the gods of those who did not worship the living God. David's God, the one, true living God, addressed David and His chosen people in words, visions, dreams, angelic visitations and finally in and through His incarnate Son, Jesus.

The fact that God speaks directly to us is a basic difference between Himself and idols. David made a simple, straightforward, significant statement: "...You, O God are strong...You, O God are loving." David drew a clear distinction between his God and other gods. His God was involved in the lives of His people in guiding and guarding them, in protecting and providing for them.

We could never enjoy or understand, recognize or appreciate the love of God if He did not demonstrate His power, strength and might. We see His strength and faithfulness in the many victories He gave David over his foes. We can understand the depth of His love and mercy when He forgave David for his sins. And, what He did for David He will do for all who love Him and accept His salvation.

Prayer: You are mighty, Lord, not only when You demonstrate Your strength, but when You forgive our sins. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 62:11b-12a "...Power belongs to you, God, and with you, Lord, is unfailing love"...

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## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/28/2018 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
  
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

## News from the Associated Press

### South Dakota students record senior residents' stories

By SARA BERTSCH, The Daily Republic

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A new learning style at Dakota Wesleyan University will allow the stories of Mitchell's senior residents to be shared worldwide.

Dakota Wesleyan has recently incorporated community-based learning into curriculum. And for one class, this has taken students to Wesley Acres in Mitchell — a senior living facility for adults 62 and older.

The Faith and Reason class, led by professor Joel Allen, focuses on the analytical examination of faith. And a class project is reaching out to the community. Allen connected with Wesley Acres, asking if there were 22 residents willing to pair up with his 22 students and share their life story.

On a recent Tuesday morning, the 22 student-resident pairs met for the second time this semester, exchanging stories and laughs. Students interviewed each resident, focusing on life lessons they'd like to leave for others and how faith has impacted their life.

The students will take the recorded interview and turn it into a "memory book of their life," Allen said, which is shared through Story Corps — a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving humanity's stories. The stories will then be uploaded to the Library of Congress national database.

"This database can be studied for years to come," Allen told The Daily Republic. "Great, great grandchildren of these people in 30 or 40 years from now can go back and listen to these stories."

The students will meet with the residents one more time this fall semester, collecting data from their life, Allen said. The data, which includes photographs, will be used to create the memory book.

And so far, it's been a blast for Dylan Dethlefsen and Phyllis Salmen. Dethlefsen is a senior at Dakota Wesleyan majoring in religious studies. He was paired with Salmen, who he has known for several years, but has never heard her full life story.

"It's very inspirational and people of her generation have a lot they can teach my generation," Dethlefsen said. "I think there's a lot to learn from them, and there's a lot to appreciate. And now is the best time to do that because you never know what tomorrow brings for any of us."

It's been just as good for Salmen, who said Dethlefsen is "fantastic."

"It's great, just going through all of this old stuff again," Salmen said of the photos and notes she had prepared on a table for Dethlefsen. "And just remembering all the things I did."

The project of Allen's class at Dakota Wesleyan is one of eight community-based learning projects on campus, according to Carly Hubers, program coordinator for the McGovern Center.

This "interesting and unique" style of learning has allowed students to learn class material in a different way, Hubers said, benefiting both parties.

"It's been really cool to see Dakota Wesleyan students dive into the Mitchell community in a way that allows them to see what's going on just outside of campus," Hubers said. "It's helping students learn, but it's also helping the community."

And Dethlefsen and Salmen aren't the only pairs enjoying themselves. Hubers and Allen said the students are increasingly excited each time they meet with their resident, and the same goes for the residents.

"It was really neat to see the connections being made. It's really something," Allen said. "The residents, and the students both, had a great time. It was neat to see these bonds and friendships form instantly."

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

### South Dakota bar replaces loading dock to continue tradition

BY DILLON DWYER, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — After nearly 40 years of smashing bottles underneath its boards, The Ice House

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is replacing its famous loading dock.

The nationally recognized institution, which got its name by being the first place in the Yankton area to artificially produce ice in 1928, was named one of America's best dive bars by Esquire magazine and was also featured on "The Late Show with David Letterman."

Two things make a visit to The Ice House unique. At the end of prohibition around 1933, the business obtained a beer license and began a long tradition of serving beer to individuals who parked in their car along the loading dock. Along with that practice, it also became standard for individuals to smash their bottles under the dock when they were finished drinking.

Both traditions have stood the test of time thanks to grandfather laws, but the brick wall underneath the deck has not been so lucky. After years of absorbing the impact from bottles being clashed against its surface, it has eroded and began to crumble. The need to repair the brick underneath the deck facilitated the replacement of both structures at the same time.

"The wood on the dock was getting really bad and underneath it the brick on the building had been broken out from people breaking their bottles against it," said Carla Anderson, whose great-grandfather started the business. "We had to repair the damage done to the bricks, and it was just easier to do that with the deck torn out."

The new dock will be roughly the same size and dimensions as the original. Aside from looking newer, nothing will change regarding the location's unique traditions.

"People can still break their bottles under the new dock," Anderson told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan. "We put in a second layer of brick under there, so we wouldn't run into the same problems again."

While the business is busiest on Fridays and Saturdays during the summer months, Anderson did note that there were a couple groups that were hoping to snag a picture on the dock last weekend.

"We had a few disappointed weddings this weekend when they couldn't get their picture taken on the old dock," Anderson said. "It's kind of the thing to do now. People like to come down after their wedding and take pictures out front."

Locals are welcome to christen the new dock with a few broken beer bottles once construction is complete.

"Everybody is more than welcome to come check it out," Anderson said.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

## Crash involving 2 vehicles, cattle kills man near Mitchell

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A crash involving two vehicles and cattle on Interstate 90 has killed a man and injured several other people near Mitchell.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a Dodge Durango was westbound on the interstate Saturday night when it struck six cows that had entered the road. The SUV came to a stop in the passing lane and was struck from the rear by a Chevrolet Impala.

Authorities say the 39-year-old man who was driving the Impala died at a Mitchell hospital. The patrol says he was not wearing a seat belt.

A 10-year-old girl who was a passenger in the Durango suffered life-threatening injuries and was airlifted to a Sioux Falls hospital. A 33-year-old woman in the SUV was seriously injured.

The interstate was closed for about two hours.

## South Dakota sees funding increase amid death penalty cases

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Defending two men facing the possibility of the death penalty in a murder case will cost a western South Dakota county's budget as much as \$1 million more in 2018.

Pennington County commissioners granted the request made by the courthouse and public defenders last month for more than \$500,000 increases each to their 2018 budgets. A large portion of those will go toward defending two men facing the death penalty on first-degree murder charges, the Rapid City Journal reported.

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Jonathon Klinetobe, 28, and Richard Hirth, 36, have been charged with murder, kidnapping and conspiracy in the disappearance and death of Jessica Rehfeld, 22, in 2015. Klinetobe is represented by three appointed lawyers, two from the county public defender's office and one private attorney. Hirth has two court-appointed private lawyers.

The law requires defendants who can't afford to hire a lawyer be appointed one by the court. Death penalty cases require at least two lawyers, but defendants are responsible for repaying the county the cost of their legal defense.

Death penalty cases are "exceedingly expensive" and taxpayers can reasonably expect to shoulder up to \$1 million for the prosecution and defense such a case, said Eric Witcher, director of the county public defender's office.

"The people who are available to handle those cases are highly specialized, and they cost significant funds," he said, including criminal investigators, lab analysts, psychiatrists, crime scene analysts and pathologists.

Klinetobe and Hirth have been detained at the county jail since May 2016. It's unclear when they will go to trial, but their cases will likely again come under the spotlight in budget hearings for 2019 if they aren't tried before then.

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Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

## **Aberdeen tennis players complain about loss of courts**

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Tennis players in Aberdeen are speaking out about a university's announcement that it will remove half its tennis courts to make room for new soccer and football practice fields.

The Aberdeen Community Tennis Association met with the president of Northern State University to protest the plan to remove six of its 12 tennis courts, the Aberdeen American News reported .

"Plans like this are not perfect," said university President Tim Downs. "There was no intent to do anything that would offend any one individual or group of individuals."

Tennis players said one of the bigger frustrations is a lack of inclusion in the planning process for the removal and other changes affecting the sport in the area.

Aberdeen's tennis community has faced several hits in the last 15 years. Players lost courts at the old Central High School site, at Melgaard Park and at the Aberdeen Aquatics Center site. They also lost the women's tennis program at Northern in 2013.

"We're not doing something to tennis. We didn't come in and say, 'To heck with tennis, to heck with the community and to heck with people that play tennis in the community,'" Downs said. "That was not our intent. If that's ever been the impression I do apologize for that."

Downs said after hearing the concerns that the university will review its options and see what can be done.

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Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## **Tribe: Public safety on Minnesota reservation worsened**

ONAMIA, Minn. (AP) — Leaders of a Native American tribe say public safety on their central Minnesota reservation worsened last year when a nearby county terminated an agreement that allowed tribal police to provide law enforcement.

Mille Lacs County's decision to terminate the agreement with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe ended 25 years of cooperation between the tribe and county sheriff's office, Minnesota Public Radio reported . County officials said they ended the agreement because the relationship had ceased to be cooperative and the band was exercising law enforcement authority outside of its jurisdiction.

Without the agreement, tribal officers don't have authority under state law to act as peace officers and pursue investigations, leaving those functions to the county sheriff's office. Tribal police can arrest suspects but must turn them over to the sheriff's office.

Interim tribal Police Chief Sara Rice said it's a frustrating situation.

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"All the officers know that they can at least make a dent in this," Rice said. "It's never going to go away completely. But you can help to deter it in some way, or hold people accountable for what they're doing and what they're bringing here."

But Mille Lacs County Attorney Joe Walsh disputes that law enforcement on the reservation has gotten lax since the agreement was revoked. He said the county hired about 10 new deputies and is providing equal coverage as before.

The move came amid a growing problem of opioid abuse in the area. The tribe says it's had nearly 50 overdoses this year, including a few deaths.

"It's drug dealers, drug users, just the criminal element that's here," said Pete Nayquonabe, a resident on the reservation. "You can see it and feel it. And there's just a feeling of not being safe anymore."

Rice said opioid addiction has led to an increase in burglaries, thefts and elder abuse.

"They're being taken advantage of, or stuff's missing from their houses," she said. "It's all to get the next high."

Gov. Mark Dayton urged the county and the band to work out a new agreement in mediation.

Information from: Minnesota Public Radio News, <http://www.mprnews.org>

## Politics on display as Letterman receives Mark Twain Prize

By ASHRAF KHALIL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — David Letterman was never known as a particularly political comedian, preferring a detached irony-drenched tone that favored the surreal and silly over topical humor. But there was an unmistakable political tint to much of Sunday night's ceremony to present Letterman with the Mark Twain award for American humor.

Several of the comedians honoring Letterman took shots at President Donald Trump and the general state of the country. More than one comedian quipped that the Kennedy Center's funding was about to be cut off mid-show. Meanwhile, the center announced that Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos was a Kennedy Center benefactor.

Kimmel jokingly blamed Letterman for helping to bring Trump to power.

"It's like you went out for cigarettes one day and left us in the hands of our abusive, orange stepfather," Kimmel quipped.

He praised Letterman profusely, recalling a monologue he delivered on his show shortly after the 9/11 attack.

"You let us know it was OK to move on and OK to laugh again," Kimmel said. "Dave, you led the way for all of us."

But Kimmel also noted that in that same monologue, Letterman offered glowing praise to then-New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, who went on to become a vocal public Trump supporter.

"Well Dave, we all make mistakes sometimes," Kimmel said.

Comedian-turned-Senator Al Franken thanked Letterman for a post-retirement series of video he and Letterman recorded together designed to raise awareness on climate change. Comedians Martin Short and Steve Martin, a previous Mark Twain honoree, needled Letterman about his bushy white retirement beard with a line touching on the country's current divisive political atmosphere.

"Dave has always had excellent instincts. What better time than now to choose to look like a Confederate war general," Steve Martin said.

Speakers Sunday night included comedians John Mulaney, Amy Schumer and Jimmie Walker of the 1970s television series "Good Times." Walker gave Letterman one of his first jobs as a joke writer in Hollywood.

Schumer poked fun at Letterman's famed reputation for grumpiness, saying she performed on his show three times.

"By the end of my third appearance, Dave was no longer totally indifferent to me," she said.

Mulaney credited Letterman's appeal with his determination to mine humor from ordinary people, and

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occasionally their pets.

"The Johnny Carson show said, 'Take a break from your weird life and watch these famous people have fun in show business,'" Mulaney said. "Dave's show said, 'Your weird life is just as funny as show business.'"

The 70-year-old Letterman spent 33 years on late-night TV, hosting long-running shows on NBC and then on CBS. His final broadcast on May 20, 2015, was episode No. 6028 that Letterman hosted. It shattered the record of his mentor, Carson.

Former First Lady Michelle Obama sent in a video tribute and Pearl Jam lead singer Eddie Vedder thanked Letterman for being a longtime "friend to music" and performed the song "Keep me in your heart" by the late Warren Zevon, a Letterman favorite.

Letterman's run on NBC in particular was hugely influential, introducing a sardonic, smartly silly comedic style that influenced a generation.

His time slot immediately following Carson's "The Tonight Show" allowed Letterman to draw a huge following of young, largely college-age viewers seeking an alternative to the somewhat staid Carson model.

Letterman introduced the country to fringe musical acts that might never have received an opportunity on "The Tonight Show."

His humor was undeniably intelligent, but also at times surrealistic and goofy. He pioneered segments called Stupid Pet Tricks and Stupid Human Tricks. He tossed watermelons and other objects off a five-story building; at one point, he wore a suit made of Velcro and jumped onto a Velcro-covered wall, sticking in place. He turned bizarre characters like Larry "Bud" Melman and Biff Henderson into cult celebrities.

Letterman started his career as a radio talk show host and TV weatherman in Indiana. In the mid-1970s he moved to Los Angeles, performing stand-up comedy and writing jokes for (at the time more famous) stand-up comic Walker of "Good Times" fame. Eventually he caught the eye of "The Tonight Show" and Carson, performing several times on the show and becoming a regular guest host starting in 1978.

NBC gave Letterman his own show following Carson; "Late Night with David Letterman" debuted on Feb. 1, 1982. Letterman's first guest that night? Bill Murray, the Twain award recipient in 2016.

On Sunday, Murray predictably stole the show with a surreal performance dressed as an Elizabethan monarch.

Murray said the perks of the Twain award elevate you above normal humans.

"You're not exactly a god but you're way up there," he said. "You will be able to walk up to any man or woman on the street, take a lit cigar out of their mouth and finish it. You'll be able to board any riverboat in this country."

Murray then announced he was hungry and had a burger brought to him on stage. He then ordered platters of burgers delivered to Letterman's balcony and cajoled Letterman's son Harry to toss a pickle to the masses below.

Follow Ashraf Khalil on twitter at [www.twitter.com/ashrafkhalil](http://www.twitter.com/ashrafkhalil)

## At least 67 civilians found dead in Syria town taken from IS

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The bodies of at least 67 Syrian civilians, many summarily killed by the Islamic State group, have been discovered in a central town in Syria retaken from IS by government troops over the weekend, the Syrian government and activists said Monday.

A senior Syrian official described the attack as a "shocking massacre," saying the search and documentation of those killed in the town of Qaryatayn, in Homs province, is still under way.

The news of the gruesome find began to emerge first late on Sunday. The number of bodies was likely to climb.

Some were shot in the street as IS militants retreated from the town, gunned down because they were suspected of working with the governments, according to activists. At least 35 of the casualties were found shot and their bodies dumped in a shaft.

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The apparent revenge killings underscore the Islamic State group's ability to inflict heavy losses in Syria even while its militants are on the retreat in north and eastern Syria, days after having been defeated in Raqqa, the group's one-time "capital" of its self-proclaimed caliphate. They also raise the specter of more revenge killings by the group while it fights to hang on to its last strongholds in Syria.

An Associated Press video, filmed as Syrian government troops recaptured Qaryatayn, showed several bodies in the streets of the town. In the video, a town resident says IS "monsters" killed more than a 100 people, including soldiers and civilians.

"These are people who don't know God, they don't know anything. They killed children and women with knives, they beat women, broke their arms," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity fearing for his own safety.

Talal Barazi, the governor of Homs province, told The Associated Press on Monday that most of the bodies were of townspeople who were government employees or were affiliated with Syria's ruling Baath party.

He said the killings went on for the three weeks that IS was in town and "terrorized" its residents, adding that at least 13 residents remain missing while six bodies have not been identified.

"It is a shocking massacre," he said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said it had documented the killings of at least 128 people killed in Qaryatayn during the last days of IS control of the town.

On Saturday, Syrian troops and allied militias regained control of the town, which was held by IS for three weeks. The government-run Syrian Central Military Media at the time said the Syrian army and its allies restored security and stability to Qaryatayn after clearing the town of IS fighters.

The head of the Observatory, Rami Abdurrahman, said that what happened in the town was a "massacre."

The activist-run Palmyra Coordination Committee published the names of 67 civilians confirmed killed and also said the number was likely to rise. It said at least 35 were found shot and dumped into a deep shaft.

The activist-run group said other bodies were also found in the town streets — apparently of people shot by pro-government forces and suspected of working with IS. The Observatory also said it documented at least 12 killed at the hands of pro-government troops after they regained control of the town.

IS militants first seized Qaryatayn in August 2015, and relied on the strategically located town to defend another of their bastions, the historic city of Palmyra. At the time, thousands of the town's Christian residents fled, fearing the extremist group's brutality.

With Russian backing, Syrian troops regained control of the town in April 2016. But IS, facing major setbacks around Syria and Iraq, launched a new attack on the town in late September and recaptured it.

At the time, Russia accused the United States, which is battling the Islamic State group, of looking the other way and allowing IS to attack Qaryatayn.

Most of the IS militants who were involved in attacks on the town were local residents. Pro-government media blamed the loss of Qaryatayn for the second time on what it described as militant "sleeper cells."

There was no immediate comment from the government in Damascus on the find of the civilian bodies in Qaryatayn.

Associated Press writer Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria, contributed to this report.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

### 1. 'MASSACRE': MORE THAN 60 CIVILIAN BODIES FOUND IN SYRIA

More than half of the victims, many of whom are believed to have been killed by Islamic State militants, were found shot and dumped in a shaft in Homs province.

### 2. TRUMP URGES HOUSE GOP TO PASS BUDGET

And the next step would be tax reform, which the president warns is crucial to avoiding political failure in 2018.

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## 3. BERGDAHL COULD GET LIFE IN PRISON

The convicted Army sergeant will appear before the judge deciding his punishment for endangering comrades by walking off his post in Afghanistan in 2009.

## 4. PHILIPPINES CALLS SIEGE IN MARAWI OVER

The assault by pro-Islamic State militants left more than 1,100 people dead and sparked fears of the extremists group gaining a foothold in Southeast Asia.

## 5. IN VIRGINIA'S TRUMP COUNTRY, LOW ENTHUSIASM FOR REPUBLICAN

People in the struggling coal town of Pound seem to know little about Ed Gillespie, the president's pick in the state's closely watched race for governor.

## 6. WHY LGBTQ COMMUNITY IN UPSTATE NEW YORK IS TAKING AIM

Trigger Warning Queer & Trans Gun Club members are among the people on the left anxious enough to take up arms with the rise of the extreme right.

## 7. SENATE PRESSES AHEAD ON DISASTER RELIEF PACKAGE

The \$36.5 billion measure, however, rejects requests from Texas and Florida lawmakers for additional money to rebuild after hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

## 8. WHAT IS PROMPTING CRITICISM ACROSS US

The FAA is redrawing flight paths for airports to streamline aircraft routing for fuel efficiency and safety, but the new routes are raising noise complaints.

## 9. WHO'S GETTING ANOTHER SUPER BOWL GIG

Fourteen years after the "wardrobe malfunction" with Janet Jackson, Justin Timberlake will be performing at halftime in Minneapolis on Feb. 4.

## 10. SUPER MISMATCH

Tom Brady throws two touchdown passes and the New England Patriots toy with the Atlanta Falcons 23-7 in a fog-filled Super Bowl rematch.

## **Bergdahl could get life in prison for endangering comrades**

**By JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press**

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl will appear Monday before a military judge who will determine his punishment for endangering comrades by walking off his post in Afghanistan. Before delivering his sentence, the judge will have to resolve a last-minute defense argument that new comments by President Donald Trump have tainted the case.

Bergdahl faces up to life in prison after pleading guilty last week to desertion and misbehavior before the enemy. Prosecutors made no deal to cap his punishment, so the judge has wide leeway to decide his sentence after a hearing expected to take several days.

The judge, Army Col. Jeffery R. Nance, is expected to weigh factors including Bergdahl's willingness to admit guilt, his five years of captivity in the hands of the Taliban and its allies, and the serious wounds that several service members suffered while searching for him.

Prosecutors are expected to put on evidence or testimony about soldiers and a Navy SEAL who were seriously wounded by gunfire during these search missions, including an Army National Guard sergeant who was shot in the head, suffering a traumatic brain injury that put him in a wheelchair, unable to speak.

Bergdahl, 31, from Hailey, Idaho, was captured soon after walking off his remote post in 2009. He has said he was caged, kept in darkness and beaten, and tried to escape more than a dozen times. He said his intention had been to alert other commanders to what he saw as problems with his unit. Still, when he pleaded guilty, he told the judge that his actions were inexcusable.

President Barack Obama brought Bergdahl home in 2014 in a swap for five Taliban prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, saying the U.S. does not leave its service members on the battlefield. Republicans roundly criticized Obama, and Trump went further while campaigning for president, repeatedly calling Bergdahl a "dirty, rotten traitor" who deserved to be executed by firing squad or thrown out of a plane without a parachute.

Nance ruled in February that those campaign statements were “disturbing and disappointing,” but didn’t amount to unlawful command influence, noting that Trump made the comments before he became president.

Defense lawyers argued last week that Trump’s views haven’t changed as commander in chief, citing his reaction to Bergdahl’s guilty plea. Trump told reporters he couldn’t say anything more about the case, “but I think people have heard my comments in the past.”

The White House issued a statement Friday that, without mentioning Bergdahl by name, said any military justice case must be “resolved on its own facts.” Prosecutors cited that statement in opposing the latest defense arguments.

Follow Drew at [www.twitter.com/jonldrew](http://www.twitter.com/jonldrew)

## **New flight paths lead to airplane noise complaints across US**

**By ANITA SNOW and JOAN LOWY, Associated Press**

PHOENIX (AP) — Airliners began flying over Twila Lake’s bungalow-style house in a historic district three years ago, taking off every one to two minutes from the Phoenix airport and roaring over her neighborhood. It was a sudden change after rarely hearing jets in her previous 13 years in the downtown neighborhood.

Now, “it’s all day and night long,” complained the 71-year-old retiree, who said she sleeps with the television on to drown out aircraft noise. Some neighbors sold their homes and moved after the aviation highway entrance ramp was routed overhead.

The Federal Aviation Administration started revising flight paths and procedures around the United States in 2014 under its air traffic control modernization plan known as “NextGen.” The new procedures use more precise, satellite-based navigation that saves time, increases the number of planes airports can service, and reduces fuel burn and emissions.

Noise complaints exploded from San Diego to Charlotte, North Carolina, to New York as flights were concentrated at lower altitudes, in narrower paths and on more frequent schedules. The new paths often reduce the number of people exposed to noise, but those who get noise get it far more consistently.

In Phoenix, redrawn flights over vintage neighborhoods like Lake’s affect some 2,500 homes, prompting a court challenge from historic districts and the city.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on Aug. 29 agreed with their assessment that the FAA was “arbitrary and capricious” in revising flight procedures. FAA officials asked for an extension, and the court this month pushed the petition deadline to Nov. 16.

Local governments and residents in more than a half-dozen other areas - including Washington’s Georgetown neighborhood and California’s Newport Beach, Laguna Beach, Orange County and Culver City - have similar petitions before the court.

Attorney Steven Taber, who represents several Southern California communities with complaints, predicted legal action over flight changes will be a continuing problem across the U.S.

Aviation experts said they don’t expect the Phoenix ruling to set a precedent for other cities, but it is forcing the FAA to be more responsive.

“We certainly view it as one of the most egregious cases of a lack of community involvement,” said Chris Oswald, vice president of safety and regulatory affairs with Airports Council International-North America. The FAA has since done more outreach elsewhere, he said.

Policy analyst Rui Neiva of the Eno Center for Transportation think tank in Washington said agency officials must find a middle ground.

“In some cases, they may have to settle on a path that is less efficient, or create several additional paths,” he said.

But David Grizzle, a former FAA chief operating officer, said it’s not possible to redesign procedures to address the problem and still reap NextGen’s technology advantages.

“There is an intrinsic issue of concentrating noise in particular places that comes with precision-based

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navigation that is inescapable," he said.

FAA officials knew a decade ago some homeowners would suffer more noise because of the changes, but hoped their complaints would be offset by the people who benefited, Grizzle said. But those people haven't spoken up.

The FAA said in a statement it is reviewing the Phoenix decision and working with residents near airports around the country through "noise roundtables" to balance community interests with needed improvements to the national airspace system.

In Phoenix, "simply reverting to previous air traffic control procedures is not viable," the agency said. The new procedures are "interdependent," and any changes to one would have a domino effect, it said.

FAA officials claimed a "categorical exclusion" for Phoenix, which they said allowed them to forgo the customary environmental assessment because any changes in flight procedures were not expected to have an adverse impact. When Phoenix filed a challenge, the FAA sought to have it dismissed, arguing it was not filed in a timely fashion.

The court ruled that by keeping people in the dark, the agency made it impossible for the public to submit views on the project's potential effects - something the FAA is especially required to do for historic areas and parks.

People elsewhere also complain the FAA failed to adequately explain the planned changes or provide opportunities to comment. In some areas, people say they didn't know changes were coming because the FAA advertised them in places people wouldn't normally look, such as government webpages.

In the Washington metro area, Georgetown University and neighborhood groups complained the FAA left them out of the loop and failed to properly assess the effect of changes at Ronald Reagan National Airport.

Residents said that until spring 2015, departing flights traveled a straight line over the Pentagon, Arlington National Cemetery and commercial areas of Rosslyn, Virginia. Now, a major departure path routes planes alongside historic Georgetown.

Roberto Vittori said he didn't know about the FAA's plans when he bought his home near Georgetown University's medical school. Vittori wrote in a legal declaration last year that he spent \$12,000 on sound-proof glass for the home's double-paned windows, but it was "still inadequate to muffle the noise."

In Maryland, residents have complained about aircraft noise from Reagan National and Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan recently ordered the state's attorney general to prepare a lawsuit against the FAA over routes he said were making families "miserable in their own homes."

Santa Cruz, California, residents have complained of noise from planes headed to San Francisco International Airport but said they decided to work with federal officials rather than go to court.

For some 30 years, San Francisco-bound aircraft traveled over unpopulated areas, but residents were surprised last year when planes began flying closer to their homes, Denise Stansfield said.

Through the Save our Skies Santa Cruz citizens group Stansfield founded, a committee of residents, elected officials and FAA representatives began meeting to devise less obtrusive flight procedures. The process is ongoing, but residents are optimistic.

Initially, the FAA "didn't consider the impact for people on the ground," group member Vicki Miller said. "I think they are reassessing."

Lowy reported from Washington.

## Senate presses ahead on \$36.5B disaster relief package

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is pushing ahead on a \$36.5 billion hurricane relief package that would give Puerto Rico a much-needed infusion of cash.

The measure also would replenish rapidly dwindling emergency disaster accounts and provide \$16 bil-

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lion to permit the financially troubled federal flood insurance program to pay an influx of Harvey-related claims. But it rejects requests from the powerful Texas and Florida congressional delegations for additional money to rebuild after hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

The measure was certain to sail through Monday's procedural vote and a final vote was expected no later than Tuesday. That would send the measure to President Donald Trump for his signature.

There is urgency to move the measure swiftly — rather than add more money to it at this time — because the government's flood insurance reserves are running out.

Still, members of the Texas and Florida delegations in Congress are unhappy because the measure failed to address extensive requests for additional hurricane rebuilding funds. Texas, inundated by Harvey in August, requested \$19 billion, while Florida sought \$27 billion.

"I'm pretty disappointed with what the House sent over," Texas GOP Sen. John Cornyn said Thursday. But later, after speaking to both Trump and White House budget director Mick Mulvaney, Cornyn said he was promised that the White House would issue another disaster aid measure next month that would provide much-needed help for Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. A fourth, and perhaps final, measure is likely to anchor a year-end spending bill.

The measure currently before the Senate contains \$577 million for wildfires out West that forced agencies to tap other reserves for firefighting accounts and FEMA money for the disastrous fires in northern California.

Republicans dragged their feet last year on modest requests by former President Barack Obama to combat the Zika virus and help Flint, Michigan, repair its lead-tainted water system. But they are moving quickly to take care of this year's alarming series of disasters, quickly passing a \$15.3 billion relief measure last month and signaling that another installment is coming next month.

## Trump urges House GOP to move quickly on budget, tax cuts

By JILL COLVIN and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — House Republicans, with the urging of President Donald Trump, will strive to pass a budget this week so they can turn their attention to tax reform. Trump warned that action on tax reform is crucial to avoiding political failure in 2018.

Trump on Sunday personally implored House GOP members on a conference call to swiftly adopt the budget that was passed last week by the Senate, with the hope of clearing the way for what he described as historic tax cuts.

Trump told the lawmakers they were on the verge of doing something historic, according to one Republican official, who, like others, spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss publicly what was intended as a private update for members.

Another GOP aide familiar with the conversation said Trump told the members again and again that the party would pay a steep price in next year's midterm elections if it failed to pass his plan. The Trump proposal would slash the corporate tax rate to 20 percent and double the standard deduction used by most Americans. The president also said multiple times that his plan was the right thing to do for country, this person said.

The Senate last week passed a budget plan that includes rules that will allow Republicans to get tax legislation through the Senate without Democratic votes or fear of a Democratic filibuster. House Republicans signaled Friday they would simply accept the Senate plan to avoid any potential delay on the tax measure.

Republicans are desperate to rack up a legislative win after a series of embarrassing failures that have come despite the fact that the party controls both chambers of Congress and the White House. At the top of the list: their stalled attempts to pass legislation repealing and replacing "Obamacare." If tax reform doesn't pass, many in the party fear an all-out revolt in 2018.

On the conference call Sunday, House Speaker Paul Ryan told members he hoped to pass the Senate version of the budget bill this week to increase the chances that tax reform can be enacted by the end of the year.

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The leaders emphasized the need for the House to pass the Senate budget to avoid negotiations between the two chambers that could slow the process, said two lawmakers on the call, who also spoke on condition of anonymity. They said the goal is for House passage of the budget this week, putting it on track to approve a tax bill by Thanksgiving. Yet lawmakers have yet to work out crucial details of the plan, including which income levels would be framed in what way by new tax-brackets.

White House budget director Mick Mulvaney told Fox News earlier Sunday that the House was working "very quickly to accept the Senate amendments," and said the plan "may save as many as 10 or 12 legislative days, which is a big deal."

Trump, who spent much of the weekend at his golf course in Virginia, will also work to rally support for the plan on the Hill Tuesday at a lunch with Senate Republicans. He said he'll be available to talk with members about the tax bill, one lawmaker said.

But as the focus turns to taxes, Congress continues to struggle with health care legislation.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Sunday he'd be willing to bring bipartisan health care legislation to the floor — if Trump makes clear he supports it. A proposal by two senators - Republican Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Democrat Patty Murray of Washington - would extend for two years federal insurance payments that Trump has blocked, in an effort to stabilize insurance markets. But Trump has offered mixed signals, alternately praising and condemning the effort - confusing Democrats and Republicans alike.

Asked whether he would bring the bill to the floor, McConnell said on CNN's "State of the Union" that he was waiting "to hear from President Trump what kind of health care bill he might sign."

"If there's a need for some kind of interim step here to stabilize the market, we need a bill the president will actually sign. And I'm not certain yet what the president is looking for here, but I will be happy to bring a bill to the floor if I know President Trump would sign it," the Republican said. He added of Trump: "I think he hasn't made a final decision."

The plan unveiled last week likely has 60 votes in the Senate, mostly from Democrats, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer on Sunday urged McConnell to bring it to the floor "immediately, this week."

"This is a good compromise," Schumer said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Mulvaney said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that Trump doesn't want to back a plan "without also getting something for folks who are being hurt."

"I think there's actually a pretty good chance to get a deal," he said. "It's just Murray-Alexander in its current form probably isn't far enough yet."

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AP Congressional Correspondent Erica Werner contributed to this report.

## After election win, Abe prioritizes North Korea, aging Japan

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Fresh off a decisive election victory, Japan's leader pledged Monday to tackle what he called Japan's two national crises: the military threat from North Korea and an aging and shrinking population.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said at a news conference that he is committed to protect the Japanese people's prosperity and peace from any contingency. He also referred to Japanese people who were abducted years ago and are believed to still be held by North Korea.

"I will pursue decisive and strong diplomacy to tackle North Korea's missile, nuclear and abduction issues and put further pressure to get it to change its policy," he said.

His ruling coalition was returned to power in elections for Japan's more powerful lower house Sunday.

Abe said Japan's decreasing population and aging is "the biggest challenge" for his Abenomics policy aimed at Japan's economic recovery from deflation. "The problem is progressing by the minute, and we cannot afford waiting around."

He promised a comprehensive package by the end of the year to deal with Japan's demographic challenges, including investments in education, productivity improvements and pension system reform.

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Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and a small coalition partner together secured at least 313 seats in the 465-member lower house, passing the 310-barrier for a two-thirds majority. Three seats remained undecided.

Abe said the result showed "strong support" from the people and thanked them for backing stability and his government's policies.

The victory boosts Abe's chances of winning another three-year term next September as leader of the Liberal Democratic Party. That could extend his premiership to 2021, giving him more time to try to win a reluctant public over to his longtime goal of revising Japan's pacifist constitution.

In the immediate term, the win likely means a continuation of the policies Abe has pursued since he took office in December 2012 — a hard line on North Korea, close ties with Washington, including defense, as well as a super-loose monetary policy and push for nuclear energy. Stocks rose in Tokyo on Monday morning.

Abe said he will have "deep discussion" on North Korean policies with President Donald Trump during his planned Nov. 5-7 visit in Japan. Abe said he will call a special parliamentary session to be re-elected as prime minister and install his new Cabinet, which is expected to retain most of its current members.

Abe's ruling coalition already has a two-thirds majority in the less powerful upper house. Having a so-called supermajority in both houses gives them virtually a free hand to push even divisive policies and legislation.

That would also increase Abe's chances for achieving a constitutional revision, a goal his party and its nationalist supporters have advocated for years. They view the 1947 constitution as the legacy of Japan's defeat in World War II and an imposition of the victor's world order and values. The charter renounces the use of force in international conflicts and limits Japan's troops to self-defense, although Japan has a well-equipped modern military that works closely with the U.S.

Any change to Japan's constitution, which has never been amended, requires approval first by two-thirds of parliament, and then in a public referendum. Polls indicate that the Japanese public remains opposed to amendment.

The win indicates Abe has bounced back from the summer, when support ratings for his Cabinet plunged to 30 percent after accusations of government favoritism to people connected to him. For the first time since he took office nearly five years ago, he appeared vulnerable as both party leader and prime minister.

The ruling coalition's victory reflects as much the lack of viable alternatives as support for Abe. Turnout was just 54 percent, as typhoon rains lashed much of the country and delaying final results.

Abe dissolved the lower house less than a month ago, forcing the snap election. Analysts saw it as an attempt to solidify his political standing at a time when the opposition was in disarray and his support ratings had improved somewhat.

His plan was briefly upstaged by the launch of a new opposition party by populist Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike. But initial excitement faded, and the Party of Hope took only 49 seats. Another new party, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, won 55 seats and looks to be the biggest opposition grouping. It is liberal-leaning, while both the Party of Hope and Abe's Liberal Democratic Party are more conservative.

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Associated Press writer Ken Moritsugu contributed to this report.

## Philippines declares end to 5-month militant siege in Marawi

By JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

CLARK, Philippines (AP) — The Philippine government declared the end Monday to the militant siege of a southern city that lasted five months, left more than 1,100 people dead and sparked fears of the Islamic State group gaining a foothold in Southeast Asia.

Speaking at an annual meeting of the region's defense ministers, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told reporters that combat operations in Marawi were ending after troops recovered 42 bodies of the last group of militants.

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"Those are the last group of stragglers of Mautes and they were caught in one building so there was a firefight, so they were finished," he said. "There are no more militants inside Marawi City."

The siege had sparked fears the Islamic State group would influence, fund and strengthen local militancies as it was losing ground in Syria and Iraq. The defeat of the IS-linked uprising and the deaths of its leaders have been a relief to the region.

"The Philippine security forces, aided by its government and the massive support of the Filipino people, have nipped the budding infrastructure and defeated terrorism in the Philippines," Lorenzana said.

He said the achievement shows how regional cooperation can contain the spread of terrorism. "In crushing thus far the most serious attempt to export violent extremism and radicalism in the Philippines and the region, we have contributed to preventing its spread in Asia."

Fighting terrorism is high on the agenda of the Southeast Asian defense ministers' meeting at the Clark freeport north of Manila. As the meetings opened, the head of the Brunei delegation expressed condolences for the loss of lives in Marawi but congratulated the Philippines for being able to liberate the city.

Malaysia's minister said the siege was a wakeup call for the region. "We have to be very careful. What happened in Marawi can happen anywhere," Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said.

Hundreds of militants, many waving Islamic State group-style black flags, launched the siege on May 23 in Marawi, a bastion of Islamic faith in the south of the largely Roman Catholic Philippines, by seizing the lakeside city's central business district and outlying communities. They ransacked banks and shops, including gun stores, looted houses and smashed statues in a Roman Catholic cathedral, according to the military.

The fighting has left at least 1,131 people dead, including 919 militants and 165 soldiers and police. At least 1,780 of the hostages seized by the militants, including a Roman Catholic priest, were rescued. The final group of 20 captives were freed overnight, Army Col. Romeo Brawner said at a news conference Sunday. That left the gunmen with none of the hostages they had used as human shields to slow the military advance for months.

The disastrous uprising, which has displaced hundreds of thousands of Marawi residents, erupted as the Philippines was hosting annual summit meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations this year, along with the 10-nation bloc's Asian and Western counterparts, including the United States and Australia. The two governments have deployed surveillance aircraft and drones to help Filipino troops rout the Marawi militants.

Last week, troops killed the final two surviving leaders of the siege, including Isnilon Hapilon, who is listed among the FBI's most-wanted terror suspects in the world, and Omarkhayam Maute. Following their deaths, President Rodrigo Duterte traveled near the main scene of battle and declared Marawi had been essentially liberated.

DNA tests done in the United States requested by the Philippine military have confirmed the death of Hapilon, according to the U.S. Embassy in Manila. Washington has offered a bounty of up to \$5 million for Hapilon, who had been blamed for kidnappings for ransom of American nationals and other terrorist attacks.

Among the foreign militants believed to be with the remaining gunmen in Marawi were Malaysian militant Amin Baco and an Indonesian known only as Qayyim. Both have plotted attacks and provided combat training to local militants for years but have eluded capture in the south.

Lorenzana said Monday the identities of the final 42 bodies had not been determined and some were beyond recognition.

## Super Mismatch: Patriots continue mastery of Falcons 23-7

By **BARRY WILNER, AP Pro Football Writer**

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — To Tom Brady and the New England Patriots, this was simply an extension of last February's Super Bowl.

For the Atlanta Falcons, it was another dose of football pain.

By the end of New England's clinical 23-7 romp through the fog Sunday night, it was clear that the Pa-

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triotics have straightened out what ailed them earlier this season. And that the Falcons are a shadow of the team that built a 25-point third-quarter lead in that championship game, only to fall apart and lose the first overtime contest in Super Bowl history.

Brady led that historic comeback, and he guided an offense that dominated the clock when the score was relatively close. Plus, unlike in the last meeting, he had a strong defense complementing him. A unit that ranked dead last in the NFL through six weeks nearly pitched a shutout against the league's No. 5 offense.

"They had some big stops in the red area, the fourth-down plays were huge," Brady said about the defense. "It was great complementary football and everyone did a great job contributing."

Brady threw two touchdown passes as the Patriots toyed with the Falcons — sound familiar? — in the foggy Super Bowl rematch that wasn't particularly super.

New England scored the final 31 points to win the NFL championship in February. Placards and shirts reading 28-3 were ever-present in and around Gillette Stadium as the Patriots (5-2) scored the first 23 points in this prime-time mismatch. The Falcons (3-3) were outplayed throughout this one.

"There were plays out there, we didn't make them," center Alex Mack said. "If it's third down, if it's red zone — all those little things add up. And to play a good team, like the Patriots are, you've gotta make them."

While Atlanta looked tentative, if not intimidated, Brady and his offense surgically tore apart the Falcons, mixing runs and passes. And that defense ...

"This was a reminder that when we play the game the right way, we can do good things on defense," DB Duron Harmon said.

"Every game takes a little different turn and I think we did a great job staying balanced," Brady added after the Patriots gained 162 yards on the ground and 241 through the air. "It was great to hand it off, see those guys rushing the way they did, and the linemen blocking. It was a great win."

Brady threw a shovel pass to Brandin Cooks that traveled perhaps a foot, and the receiver used his speed to get into the left corner of the end zone. The other TD was a 2-yarder to James White, who had three touchdowns, including the winner, in the Super Bowl.

It got so bad for Atlanta that the usually reliable Matt Bryant had a field goal blocked and then put a 36-yarder off the left upright. That Super Bowl losers' malaise folks talk about might have found a home in the ATL this year.

Stephen Gostkowski had no trouble sending field goals of 29, 21 and 38 yards through the fog for New England.

"That fog was pretty crazy," Rob Gronkowski said. "I mean I have never seen anything like that or played in any fog. A deep ball up in there was definitely tougher than with no fog."

The Falcons seemed ready to end the string of points allowed to the Patriots at 51 when they got to the 1 early in the fourth period. But Matt Ryan, who struggled all night, was off-target to Julio Jones in the end zone. Then receiver Taylor Gabriel lost 4 yards on a fourth-down run.

Even the fans in the upper deck who could barely see through the haze at that point let out a huge cheer, then Gostkowski added his third field goal to extend New England's mastery of Atlanta to 54 straight points.

Jones' 1-yard touchdown reception with 4:09 to go ended the schneid, and he hurled the football high into the mist as if to say "at last."

## STREAKING

The Falcons surrendered 20 straight points in last week's loss to Miami, and then 23 in a row to New England before Jones' TD.

## BRADY'S MOM

Brady's mother, Galynn, who battled breast cancer last year, was on the field with her husband for pre-game ceremonies as part of the NFL's "Crucial Catch" campaign.

"It was great for them to be here and be in attendance and for us to win," Brady said. "That was very special for me. I'm happy for my mom, what she has been through has been pretty challenging for her and for my dad."

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"Carving pumpkins today with my kids and beating the Falcons tonight made for a pretty perfect day for me."

## FLAGS FLY

In the first quarter alone, there were seven penalties, including six on the opening drive of the game by New England. The flags cost the team's 55 yards in the 0-0 opening period. To keep the sloppiness going, Patriots LT Nate Solder drew an illegal motion call on the first play of the second quarter, and Adrian Clayborn's roughing-the-passer penalty negated an interception and helped set up Cooks' TD.

Things got cleaner in the second half.

## INJURIES

Falcons: Linebacker Duke Riley was sidelined by a knee injury in the first half.

Patriots: Linebacker Dont'a Hightower, sidelined earlier this season with a knee problem, left in the second half with a shoulder problem. DL Malcom Brown left with an ankle injury.

## UP NEXT

Falcons — At New York Jets next Sunday.

Patriots — Host Los Angeles Chargers next Sunday.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Tillerson seeks Arab help in US effort to isolate Iran

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson took the Trump administration's case for isolating and containing Iran in the Middle East and beyond to two Gulf Arab nations on Sunday, pushing for Saudi Arabia and Iraq to unite to counter growing Iranian assertiveness. He also called for a quick resolution to the ongoing crisis between Qatar and its Arab neighbors, which he said was unintentionally bolstering Iran.

In Saudi Arabia and later Qatar, Tillerson denounced Iran's "malign behavior" and urged nations of the region and elsewhere, notably Europe, to join the administration to halt any business they do with Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard. He also demanded that Iranian and Iran-backed Shiite militia in Iraq either return to their homes, integrate into the Iraqi army or leave the country.

"Those fighters need to go home," Tillerson said. "Any foreign fighters need to go home."

In Riyadh for the inaugural meeting of the Saudi Arabia-Iraq Coordination Council — a vehicle that U.S. officials believe can wean Iraq from Iran — Tillerson told Saudi King Salman and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi that the nascent partnership between their countries held great promise for Iraq's reconstruction after devastating battles to wrest territory from the Islamic State group and its independence from foreign influence.

"We believe this will in some ways counter some of the unproductive influences of Iran inside of Iraq," he said at a news conference with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir after the council meeting.

Tillerson said countries outside of the region could also play a role, primarily by shunning the Revolutionary Guard, which play a major role in Iran's economy and were added to a U.S. terrorism blacklist earlier this month. Companies and countries that do business with the guards "really do so at great risk," he said.

"We are hoping that European companies, countries and others around the world will join the U.S. as we put in place a sanctions structure to prohibit certain activities of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard that foment instability in the region and create destruction in the region," Tillerson said.

At the council meeting, Tillerson praised the Saudi king and Abadi for the August reopening of a major border crossing and the resumption of direct flights between Riyadh and Baghdad last week.

"Both represent the beginning of what we hope will be a series of even more tangible actions to improve relations and strengthen cooperation on a host of issues," he said. "Your growing relationship between the kingdom and Iraq is vital to bolstering our collective security and prosperity and we take great interest in it."

His participation in the meeting comes as U.S. officials step up encouragement of a new axis that unites

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Saudi Arabia and Iraq as a bulwark against Iran's growing influence from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea. Amid the push for that alliance, the Iraqi government is struggling to rebuild recently liberated Islamic State strongholds and confronts a newly assertive Kurdish independence movement.

History, religion and lots of politics stand in Tillerson's way, but both the Saudi king and the Iraqi prime minister appeared optimistic about the prospects.

"We are facing in our region serious challenges in the form of extremism, terrorism as well as attempts to destabilize our countries," Salman said. "These attempts require our full attention. ... We reaffirm our support for the unity and stability of our brother country of Iraq."

Abadi expressed pleasure with "the thriving relations between our two brotherly countries."

"We are open and we want to move away from the past," he said. "The region cannot tolerate any further divisions. Interference in the internal affairs of other state should stop."

Shiite-majority Iraq and Sunni-led Saudi Arabia, estranged for decades after Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, have tried in recent years to bridge their differences. Saudi Arabia reopened its embassy in Baghdad in 2015 after a quarter century. The first visit by a Saudi foreign minister to Baghdad came in February this year, followed by the border crossing reopening in August and resumption of direct flights between the capitals suspended during the Gulf War.

Over the weekend, the Saudi oil minister, Khalid al-Falih, made a high-profile appearance at Baghdad's International Fair, and held talks with his Iraqi counterpart, Jabar al-Luabi.

Nevertheless, the relationship is plagued by suspicion. Iran's reported intervention in Iraq's semiautonomous northern Kurdish region, after last month's much criticized vote for independence in a referendum, has deepened the unease. After his talks in Riyadh, Tillerson flew to the Qatari capital of Doha, a direct route that has been closed to commercial airlines since June when the now-five-month old crisis between Qatar and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates erupted, ostensibly over terrorism financing. Qatar and Bahrain are home to major U.S. military bases in the Middle East, the al-Udeid Air Base near Doha and the headquarters of the U.S. 5th Fleet in Manama.

Tillerson has attempted to facilitate a dialogue through talks with the feuding parties as well as supporting a Kuwaiti mediation effort but has thus far been unsuccessful. He renewed those calls but allowed that progress seemed unlikely. "We cannot force talks between parties who are not ready to talk," he said.

"The United States remains concerned that the dispute has had negative consequences economically and militarily; the U.S. has felt these effects as well," he said. "None of us can afford to let this dispute linger. We ask that everyone ease the rhetoric and deescalate the tensions."

Tillerson noted that the only country benefiting from the crisis is Iran, which is now Qatar's lifeline as its neighbors have sealed their land, sea and air borders. He said Qatar's new reliance on Iranian airspace is "the most immediate and obvious gain that Iran has."

"Anytime there is conflict and destabilization among countries that are typically allies, someone will always come in to exploit those differences," he added.

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Associated Press writer Aya Batrawy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Oct. 23, the 296th day of 2017. There are 69 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 23, 1942, during World War II, Britain launched a major offensive against Axis forces at El Alamein (el ah-lah-MAYN') in Egypt, resulting in an Allied victory.

On this date:

In 1864, forces led by Union Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis repelled Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's army in the Civil War Battle of Westport in Missouri.

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In 1915, tens of thousands of women paraded up Fifth Avenue in New York City, demanding the right to vote.

In 1935, mobster Dutch Schultz, 34, was shot and mortally wounded with three other men during a gangland hit at the Palace Chophouse in Newark, New Jersey. (Schultz died the following day.)

In 1941, the Walt Disney animated feature "Dumbo," about a young circus elephant who learns how to fly, premiered in New York.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of Leyte (LAY'-tee) Gulf began, resulting in a major Allied victory against Japanese forces.

In 1946, the United Nations General Assembly convened in New York for the first time, at an auditorium in Flushing Meadow.

In 1956, a student-sparked revolt against Hungary's Communist rule began; as the revolution spread, Soviet forces started entering the country, and the uprising was put down within weeks.

In 1963, the Neil Simon comedy "Barefoot in the Park," starring Elizabeth Ashley and Robert Redford, opened on Broadway.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon agreed to turn over White House tape recordings subpoenaed by the Watergate special prosecutor to Judge John J. Sirica.

In 1983, 241 U.S. service members, most of them Marines, were killed in a suicide truck-bombing at Beirut International Airport in Lebanon; a near-simultaneous attack on French forces killed 58 paratroopers. NBC News reporter and anchorwoman Jessica Savitch, 36, and New York Post executive Martin Fischbein, 34, died in a car accident in New Hope, Pennsylvania.

In 1991, Cambodia's warring factions and representatives of 18 other nations signed a peace treaty in Paris.

In 2001, the nation's anthrax scare hit the White House with the discovery of a small concentration of spores at an offsite mail processing center.

Ten years ago: Evacuations due to out-of-control wildfires in Southern California topped half a million; President George W. Bush declared a federal emergency for seven counties. Shuttle Discovery and its crew of seven thundered into orbit for a complex space station construction mission.

Five years ago: During a debate with Democratic rival Joe Donnelly, Indiana Republican Senate candidate Richard Mourdock said that when a woman becomes pregnant during rape, "it is something that God intended to happen." (Other Republican candidates moved to distance themselves from Mourdock, who went on to lose the November election to Donnelly.)

One year ago: A tour bus returning home to Los Angeles from a casino trip plowed into the back of a slow-moving semi-truck on a California highway, killing 13 people. Bill Murray received the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Former student radical turned California lawmaker Tom Hayden, 76, died in Santa Monica, California.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Philip Kaufman is 81. Soccer great Pele (pay-lay) is 77. Rhythm-and-blues singer Barbara Ann Hawkins (The Dixie Cups) is 74. ABC News investigative reporter Brian Ross is 69. Actor Michael Rupert is 66. Movie director Ang Lee is 63. Jazz singer Dianne Reeves is 61. Country singer Dwight Yoakam is 61. Community activist Martin Luther King III is 60. Movie director Sam Raimi is 58. Parodist "Weird Al" Yankovic is 58. Rock musician Robert Trujillo (Metallica) is 53. Christian/jazz singer David Thomas (Take 6) is 51. Rock musician Brian Nevin (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 51. Country singer-musician Junior Bryant is 49. Actor Jon Huertas is 48. Movie director Chris Weitz is 48. CNN medical reporter Dr. Sanjay Gupta is 48. Bluegrass musician Eric Gibson (The Gibson Brothers) is 47. Country singer Jimmy Wayne is 45. Actress Vivian Bang is 44. Rock musician Eric Bass (Shinedown) is 43. TV personality and host Cat Deeley is 41. Actor Ryan Reynolds is 41. Rock singer Matthew Shultz (Cage the Elephant) is 34. Rhythm-and-blues singer Miguel is 32. Actress Masiela Lusha (MAH'-see-ella loo-SHA') is 32. Actress Emilia Clarke is 31. Actress Briana Evigan is 31. Actress Jessica Stroup is 31. Neo-soul musician Allen Bransetter (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 27. Actress Taylor Spreitler is 24. Actress Amandla Stenberg is 19.

Thought for Today: "You can fool too many of the people too much of the time." — James Thurber, American humorist (1894-1961).